Demand of khadi goods by Railway

†905. SHRI PYARE LAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has proposed to procure Khadi goods from Khadi and Village Industries Commission as per the declaration of Minister of Railways to use khadi in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission is capable to meet this big order;

(d) if so, the extent to which such a big purchase would affect Khadi and Village Industries Commission in respect of employment generation etc. and the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by Khadi and Village Industries Commission to get this order from Railways?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railway Board during discussion with KVIC has indicated their estimated requirement to procure Khadi/ Handloom material like Bed Sheets, Pillow Covers, Towels, Blankets and Kulhars for supply to Railways. The Railway Board Authorities have informed that requirement of these items will be purchased from both Khadi and Handloom sectors. KVIC is awaiting the approval of samples and specifications and firm orders from the Railway Board. Details of the estimated demand of the above items together with the capacity of KVIC to supply these items during 2004-05 is given below:—

(Qty. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Discription of items	Estimated requirement during 2004-05	KVIC capacity to supply during 2004-05
1.	Bed Sheet	17.00	0.70
2.	Pillow Covor	10.00	1.00
3.	Towels	8.50	3.00
4.	Woollen Blanket	0.50	0.20
5.	Kulhar	125.00	100.00

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Further, to gear up the supply of above items, meetings with institutions all over India are being held and nodal agencies have been nominated to ensure timely supply to the different zonal Railway Headquarters. So far, KVIC has received from orders firm the following Regional Railway Headquarters:

(Qty. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Railways	Bed Sheet	Pillow Covers	Towels	Others
1.	Eastern Railway (Received on 22.6.2004)	1.00	1.69	0.04	-
2.	South Central Railway (Received on 9.7.2004)	1.50	1.00	0.85	0.07 (Blankets)

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As regards Khadi, KVIC is already supplying upholstery items to the Railways. The enhanced order from Railways will help in boosting the additional employment generation in Khadi sector and also in providing an assured market for the products. So far as village industries are concerned, there are KVIC units which produce kulhars and the supply of kulhars to Railways will help in generating additional employment opportunities and increasing the level of income of the artisans engaged in pottery.

(e) Does not arise.

Export of coir products

906. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increasing global demand for natural fibres;

(b) if so, the details of the coir products exported for the last three years and the foreign exchange earned for the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether the minimum export price for coir products is scrapped during the regime of the last Government;

(d) whether action would be taken to restore the minimum export price for coir products;

(e) if so, details thereof;

(f) if not, reasons therefor; and